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0712 '00 JUN -1 P3:47

May 29, 2000

Lyle D Jaffe
Dockets Management, FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Dr Room 1-23
Rockville MD 20857

Re: Petition to ban forced molting of layer hens (docket 98P-0203/CP)

Dear Mr Jaffe

I am writing to inform you that I support the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens because, as you may know, chickens are the most abused animals on the face of the earth forced to live in darkness in cramped cages and deprived of food for long periods of time for the sake of egg production.

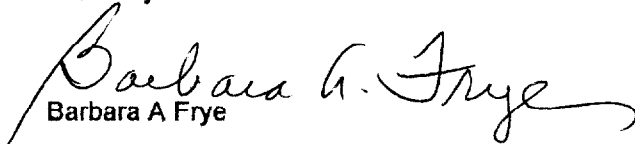
As the days of torture go on many birds die. The crowded cages fill with rotting corpses and manure covered feathers. The starving hens peck frantically at their empty feed trays, and many resort to eating feathers. The result of a lifetime of abuse is hens with weakened bones, resulting in fragile and broken limbs, oozing abscesses and internal hemorrhaging and even these carcasses are used as food in dishes that hide the true state of their battered and bruised flesh.

Forced molting is so cruel that in 1987, it was banned in Great Britain, and most European countries do not allow food deprivation for more than 24 hours. Yet, in North America, no laws protect these poor birds, and as you read this, more than 6 million hens are being force-molted.

The eggs that the diseased hens produce when eaten can raise your cholesterol level by a much a 10 points! In fact, women who eat eggs daily triple their risk of breast cancer. Eggs also cause food poisoning and contribute to obesity, heart disease and other serious health problems.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and I appreciate any assistance you can give regarding this matter. I will continue with my efforts to educate people of the ills of forced molting and I look forward to hearing from your office any information regarding this issue.

Sincerely


Barbara A Frye

98P-0203

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